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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4493  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2831  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2951  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1394  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2214  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 2579  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2999  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 5440  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFIISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2123  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 HARARE 000405

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B.WALCH  
DRL FOR N. WILETT  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR J. HARMON AND L. DOBBINS  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR M. GAVIN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2019  
TAGS: PGOV PREL ASEC PHUM ZI  
SUBJECT: THE NEW GOZ: A THREE MONTH ASSESSMENT

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HARARE 00000405 006 OF 006

the government to continue for five years before they have to face reelection. In fact, there has been little serious talk about elections. As noted, the GPA calls for an 18-month constitutional process and it is likely that real discussion about elections will come only after this process is well under way. Under an ideal scenario, a new constitution would be adopted within 18 months and an election would be held within six months after that. Our goals for Zimbabwe, and the goals of the Zimbabwean people themselves, can probably

be met only after new elections, but for now we believe our focus should be on support for the constitutional process and legislative reforms that will permit fair elections.

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COMMENT  
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¶29. (C) It is questionable whether this government will produce the meaningful reforms outlined by the Hague Principles that would justify full reengagement. Progress is likely to be fitful -- a couple of democratic steps forward followed by retrogressive actions of those who would like to see the government fail. We should attempt to help reformist elements of the government -- which means principally the MDC -- and the Zimbabwean people. We are already providing health assistance; potential other areas of assistance include education and water. Any such assistance should not of course be made directly to the government. So far, the government has just asked for money and has not prioritized needs. We will ask Tsvangirai and Biti to do so in the event a decision is made to assist the Zimbabwean transition through aid to critical areas.

¶30. (C) Increased assistance to the Zimbabwean people, coupled with the maintaining of OFAC sanctions (with the exception of parastatals under MDC control), would send a strong signal. ZANU-PF officials continue to blame sanctions for Zimbabwe's economic predicament, but notably nobody in the MDC is suggesting that targeted sanctions should be lifted. The MDC does contend, as Biti stated during his visit to Washington, that consideration should be given to the repeal of ZDERA. We believe that the process of repeal of ZDERA should begin as a potential carrot for reform, making clear that actual repeal will depend on substantial progress in all areas, including rule of law. END COMMENT.

MCGEE